

Board of Education Minutes
June 20, 2012

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Mathwich, and Mrs. Dame. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Testa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Testa told those present that the meeting was being recorded. He explained the changes in the agenda format. Student Jason Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – None.

4. Community Relations – Dr. Pukas said there were quite a few nice articles about our students and elaborated. Mrs. Dame had attended the last PTO meeting of the year and she explained. She said the PTO asked if a Board member could attend their meetings.

5. Presentations - Mr. Testa presented Dr. Pukas with the ceremonial apple symbolizing her 38 years of service. Dr. Pukas had comment and thanked everyone. She elaborated.

6. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford spoke of the graduation ceremonies and elaborated. Mr. Sandford told the Board there are a number of staff changes that he will make the Board aware of as things are more finalized. Mrs. Wilkison said there were many end-of-the year assemblies and she elaborated. She had further comment on those activities. Board members had comment.

7. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- May 9, 2012 – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2012 meeting. Mr. Scarchilli abstained.

May 16, 2012 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2012 Special Meeting.

June 6, 2012 Emergency Meeting - There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to table the minutes of the June 6, 2012 Emergency Meeting to the next meeting. Mrs. Dame abstained.

June 8, 2012 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2012 special meeting as amended.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Dr. Pukas told the Board she received a letter from Jennifer Johnson retiring from her position as grade six social studies teacher and she elaborated. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept Miss Johnson’s letter of retirement with much appreciation for her work here and much luck with her job in Prague.

Dr. Pukas again explained the reasoning for the emergency meeting that had been called. She explained about the non-renewals and said information was given to the Board regarding fiscal issues. Dr. Pukas explained the issue with one individual’s employment and tenure. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Dame that the Board’s vote on March 14, 2012 concerning the non-renewal of the contract of employment of Kara Rose be rescinded, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action, and offer Kara Rose a contract of employment for the 2012-2013 school year. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Pukas explained the other portion of the personnel item. She recommended that the Board rescind the non-renewals that were done March 14th. She elaborated and had explanation. She spoke of the unemployment cost issue. She explained a reduction in force if the budget did not pass again. She had further explanation. Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich that the Board’s vote on March 14, 2012 concerning the non-renewal of the contracts of employment of Stephanie Vaughn, Melanie Rainville, Melissa Lincoln, Terry Gabriel, Kerry Henderson, Jennamarie Lesky, Megan Perkins, Michael Hassell, Kyle Legnos, Brandon Lorentz, Marybeth Tavares, Janet Devaux, Cara Mizak, and Nancy Liner be rescinded, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action, and offer the listed individuals with a contract of employment for the 2012-2013 school year. Board members had questions that were answered. There was further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told the Board she met with Mr. Nero twice and she elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa thanked everybody for the time they took during Mr. Nero’s visit and he elaborated. He explained how the meetings will be conducted and why the second public comment was added. He had further comment.

c. Committee Chairs – The Student Success Committee and the Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Testa said that Mr. Aiello had nothing new to report.

9. Financial – Transfers were acted upon first. b. Mrs. Costa explained the transfers that she was requesting, many of them due to IEP’s. Mr. McCord had explanation. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfers requested by Mrs. Costa.

a. May 2012 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept total accounts payable of \$236,088.77, payroll of \$571,021.72, a subtotal expenditures of \$807,110.49, grants of \$30,755.73, for a total of \$837,866.22 for May 2012.

Mr. McCord said there was a discussion regarding drafting a letter to the Selectman's office requesting that 50% of the returned funds be set aside for maintenance. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich the Board voted unanimously to send a letter requesting whatever funds can be set aside legally be set aside for maintenance of the school buildings and that the Chairman and Mr. McCarthy come up with the wording.

10. Old Business – a. 2012-2013 Proposed Education Budget – Dr. Pukas said the Town Budget Meeting is on Monday, June 25th. The administrators will have a one-page handout for the meeting. She had further comment. Board members had comment. Dr. Pukas had further comment and commended the administrators on the great job explaining their budgets this year. There was comment and discussion on how to get the word out. There was further discussion. Mr. Mathwich offered to do a one-page cover.

11. New Business - a. Election of Board of Education Secretary – Tabled to the next meeting when more members can be in attendance.

b. Textbook Adoption - Mrs. Dame had explanation of what occurred at the Student Success Committee meeting. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Dame to accept the textbook for purchase. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Scheduling of a Building Maintenance Visit – Mr. Testa explained why this was put on the agenda. He felt an informal visit should be scheduled for new Board members and the new Superintendent to look at some of the maintenance items in the buildings in conjunction with the maintenance supervisor. This will be done as a Facilities and Finance Committee meeting. There was further comment.

d. Summer Meeting Schedule – There was discussion of possible meeting dates and different date scenarios.

12. Calendar – Mr. Mathwich wanted to schedule a Facilities and Finance Committee meeting for July 11th before the meeting. There was discussion of doing the walk-through on a Saturday. There was discussion of postponing the tour until August. Student Success Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on the July 11th. Instead of having a Facilities and Finance Committee meeting the Ad Hoc items will be done as a presentation. The Student Success Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m. on July 11th. There will be no Facilities and Finance Committee meeting on the 11th. There was further comment about the Education Specs and going through the Student Success Committee. Questions were asked and answered.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Testa explained that there is a brief Executive Session and elaborated. Sasha Goldstein of The Day had questions on the legality of the executive session item. Mr. Testa explained there was confidential information that was going to be discussed. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Audit Update – On a motion by Mr. Scarchilli, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to table this item and get clarification.

On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The North Stonington Board of Education